

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, 10, 11, 13, 14, 25 and 26 are pending. Claims 2-5, 7-9, 12, 15-24 and 26 – 31 are canceled.

35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1, 3, 6, 10, 11, 13, 14, 25 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US Pat. No. 3,456,547 to Strong.

It is submitted that Strong does not disclose each and every limitation of the claims as amended.

Regarding claims 1 and 10, Strong does not disclose or suggest a knob and plate arrangement. Additionally, Strong does not disclose a coupling member having a pair of generally parallel side walls extending along a length of the coupling member and spaced for insertion into the slot aperture, whereupon insertion of the side walls into the slot aperture prevents the coupling member from being rotating relative to the plate about an axis generally perpendicular to the opposed surfaces of the plate.

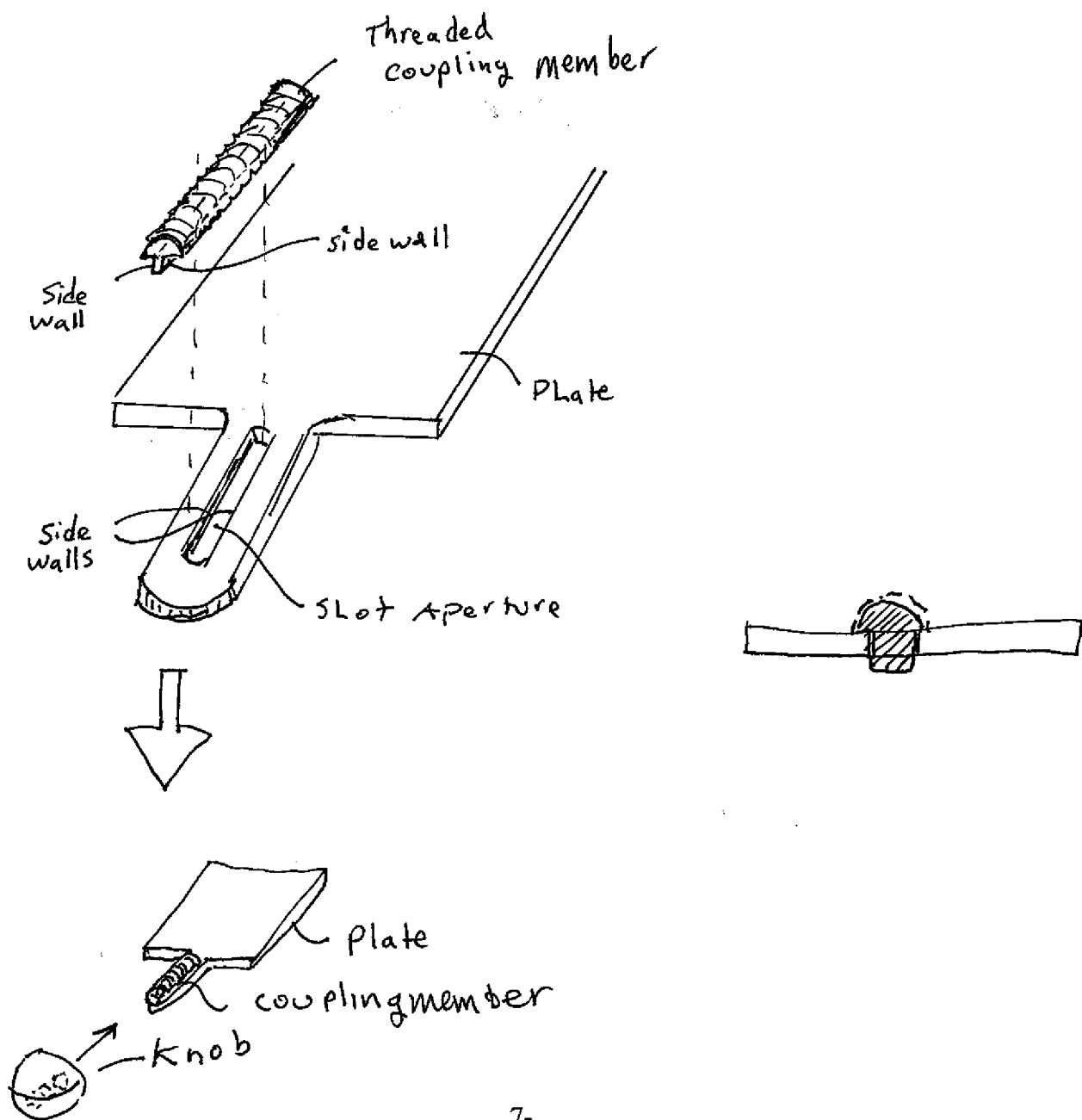
In comparison, the pin 65 of Strong *does not* provide “a pair of generally parallel side walls” and insertion of the pin 65 *does not* prevent the coupling member 60, 61 from being rotated relative to the plate 62. In fact, the pin 65 “should be a loose fit in both the slot and the heads of the bolt halves.” Col. 4, lines 25-28.

Regarding claim 14, Strong does not disclose an elongate threaded coupling member having an external thread set and a pair of side walls spaced for insertion into a slot aperture, with said side walls preventing rotation of the coupling member relative to said plate about an axis generally perpendicular to the slot aperture.

In comparison, the pin 65 of Strong *does not* provide a pair of side walls spaced for insertion into a slot aperture with said side walls preventing rotation of the coupling member relative to said plate about an axis generally perpendicular to the slot aperture. In contrast,

insertion of the pin 65 *does not* prevent the coupling member 60, 61 from being rotated relative to the plate 62. In fact, the pin 65 "should be a loose fit in both the slot and the heads of the bolt halves." Col. 4, lines 25-28.

The illustration below represents the embodiment disclosed in Applicant's Figures 3-5, 7, 8 and 12. The illustration is provided assist in examination and is not meant to limit the scope or coverage of the claims.



35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claims 1 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 6,474,920 to Lin.


For the reasons provided above, Lin '920 alone fails to render obvious the present invention. Even when ball 58 is inserted into the aperture 54 or channel 52, the threaded coupling member 4 is free to rotate relative to the plate 5. Until threaded coupling member 4 is inserted into a bolt, etc., coupling member is free to rotate about the center of aperture 54.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the pending claims and arguments. Applicant respectfully submits that, as amended, the subject application is in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is kindly requested. Time extension fees should be charged against the undersigned's Deposit Account 02-2732 (ref. 24954-25). The Examiner is invited to direct any questions regarding this application to John Klos at (612) 321-2806.

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Respectfully submitted,
Tennant Company, by its attorneys,


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